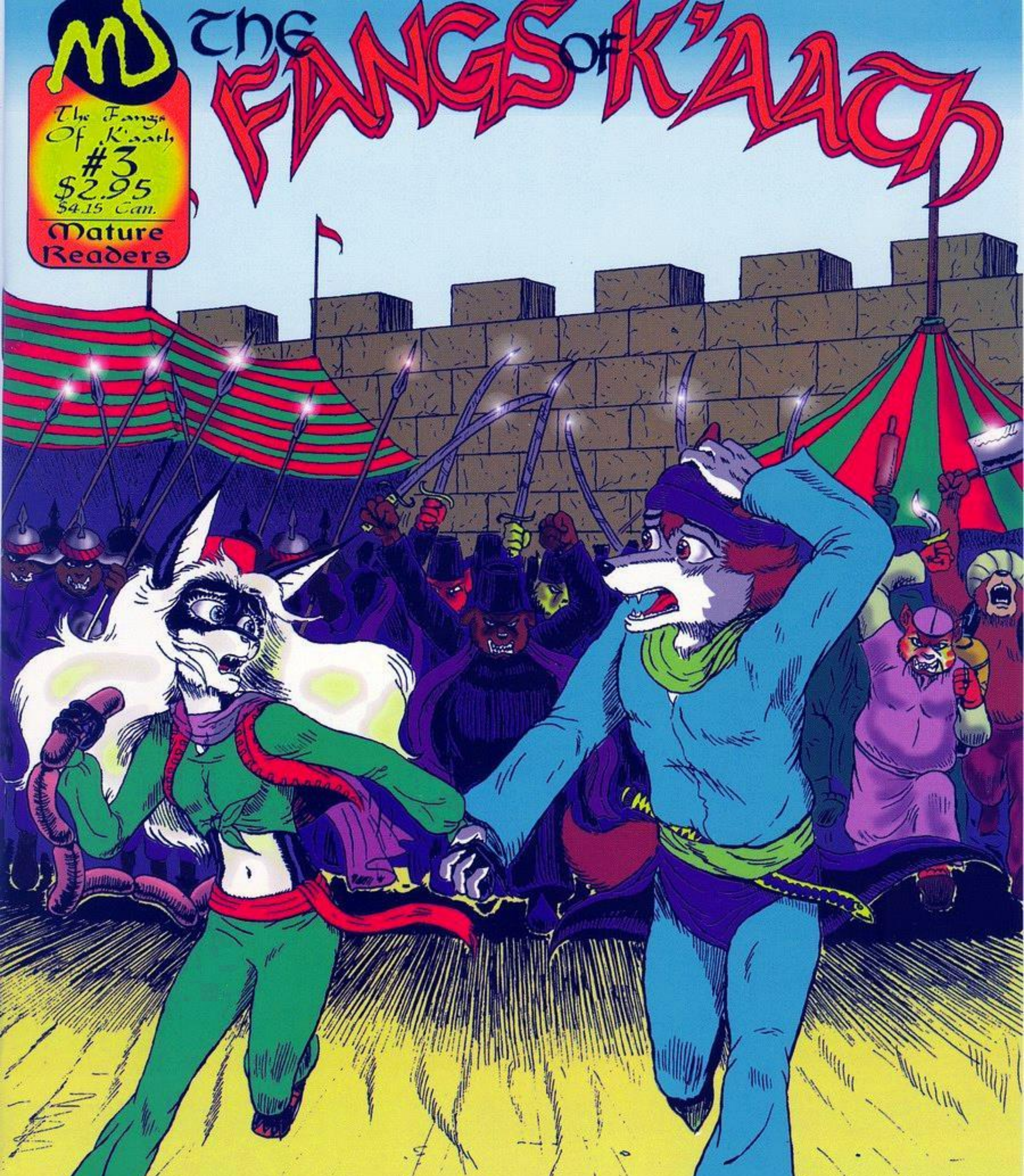
The Fangs of K'aag

The Fangs Of K'aath
#3
$2.95
$4.15 Can.
Mature Readers



Previously, in...

The Fangs of K'aag

SANDALS?
I HAFF EARNED SIX DINAR TODAY! THERE VAS A GROUP OF VESTERNERS. I TOLD THEM THE STORY ABOUT THE CAMEL AND THE DESERT APES --
- YOU KNOW THE ONE?

The Fangs of Kaa

by Paul Kidd

A Day in the Market

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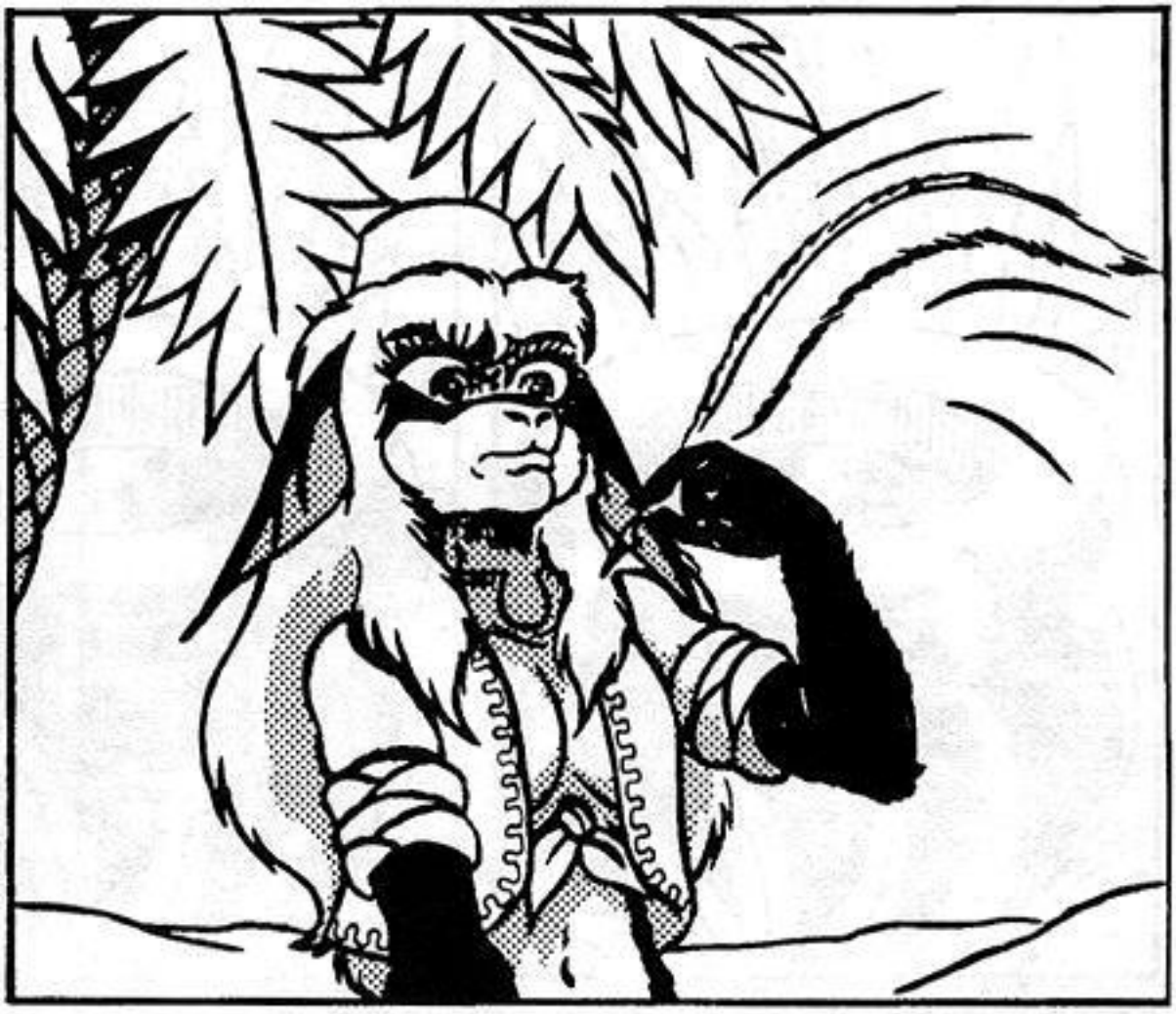
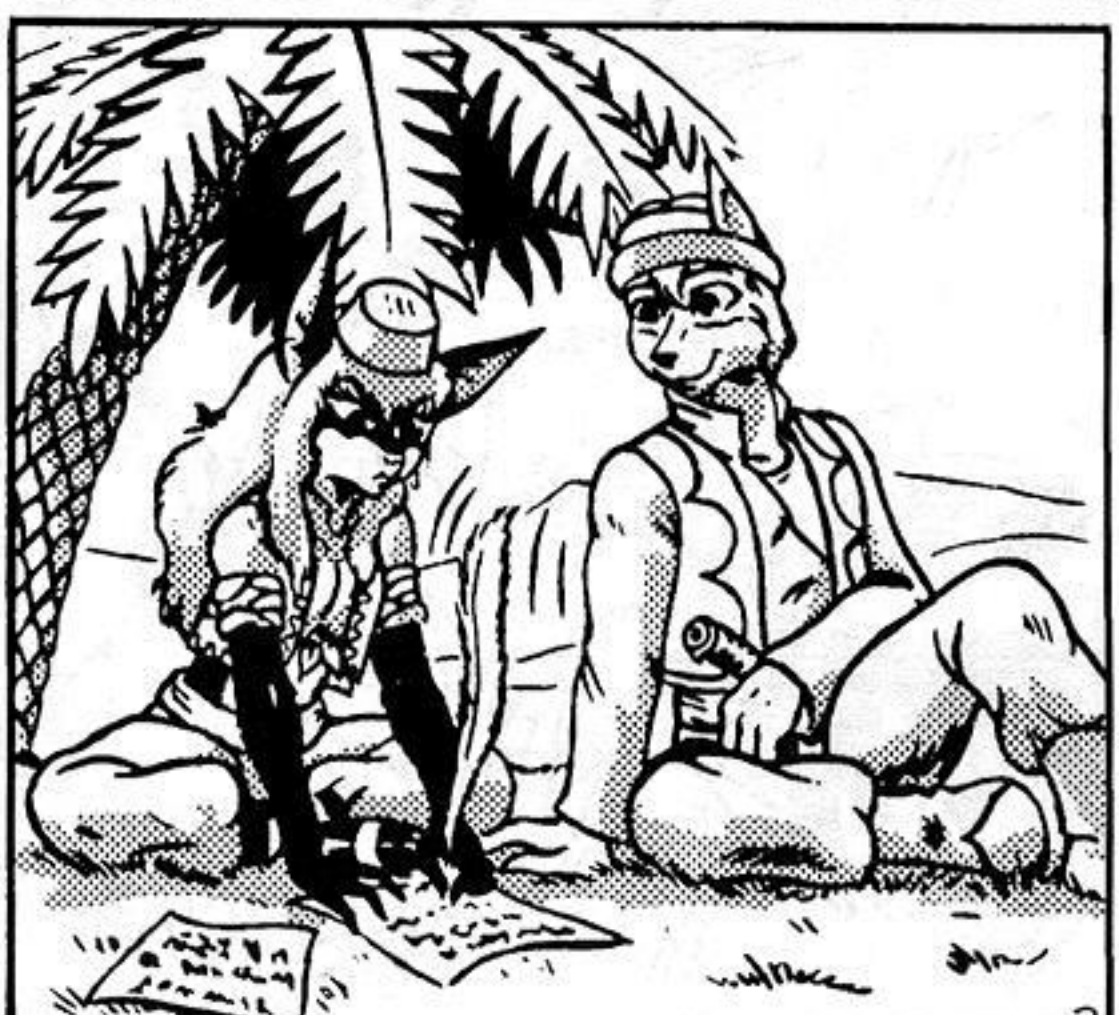


RASCHID... I-I JUST CAN'T SEE HOW IT V'ORKS! I TRY - IT JUST MAKES NO SENSE!

V'Y! V'Y DOES THE A IN SANDHRI HAFF TO FLOAT ABOVE THE OT'ER LETTERS?
BECAUSE ALL THE VOWEL SOUNDS GO ABOVE OR BELOW THE LINE, YOU SEE?

IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE... SANDHRI, LOOK WILL YOU JUST TRY! JUST FOR ME?



THE PEN ISS DRY.

GIVE IT HERE, THEN.

V'RITING! V'RITING! IT MAKES MY HEAD SPIN. ISN'T THERE SOMET'ING EASIER TO TEACH ME?

IN SURA SEVENTY IT SAYS: be thou patient, for patience is becoming.

HA! V'ELL I HAFF NEVER READ THE SURAS.

WELL WHEN YOU CAN READ, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO READ THE WHOLE COLLECTION.

READING MAKES MY HEAD HURT. V'Y CAN'T V'E DO SOMET'ING EASIER?

OH, ALLAH!

RASCHID...

HERE WE ARE! NUMBERS!

NOW THEN - HERE WE HAVE THE NUMBERS ZERO TO SEVEN...

V'ERE'S EIGHT?

EIGHT IS MADE UP BY ADDING A ONE TO A ZERO.

V'UN PLUS ZERO IS V'UN! NOT EIGHT!

I KNOW ONE PLUS ZERO IS ONE. BUT THE NUMBER EIGHT IS MADE UP OF TWO SYMBOLS SIDE BY SIDE.

V'Y?

WHAT?

V'Y ISS IT MADE UP OF TWO SYMBOLS?

I DON'T KNOW WHY! THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS!

HA! HAFF YOU HEARD THE STORY OF HOW NUMBERS CAME TO BE? YOU SEE, T'ERE V'ASS T'IS CRAB JUST SITTING BY THE SEASIDE...

SANDHR!!

SANDHRI, I CAN SPEAK THREE FOREIGN LANGUAGES. I AM VERSED IN THE WORLD HISTORIES, THE POETS AND THE PROPHETS. BUT TEACHING *YOU* IS QUITE BEYOND ME!

YOUR BACK HURTS AGAIN. YOU'RE ALV'AYS CRANKY V'EN YOUR BACK HURTS. SHALL I RUB IT FOR YOU?

I'M CRANKY BECAUSE YOU WON'T LISTEN! NOW WRITE YOUR DAMNED NUMBERS DOWN!

SIGH

FLOP!

THOU'RT IMPOSSIBLE!

SO?

AYE. BUT I'LL HAVE THEE READING IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO ON EARTH!

SIGH.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME.

HOW -UH- HOW COULD'ST THOU TELL?

MMMMM, ISS JUST A FEELING I GET. LIKE HAFFING SOMET'ING GENTLY TOUCH ME.

RASCHID. I AM V'ORKING ON A - A LOVE STORY. I V'ANTED TO ASK YOU SOME T'INGS TO HELP ME.

I... WELL, YES. ALL RIGHT.

IN THIS - THIS STORY, A GIRL FALLS IN LOVE. VERY, VERY MUCH IN LOVE. AND SHE... SHE DOESN'T KNOW IF HER PARTNER CARES FOR HER OR NOT.

YES?

SHE HAS NEFFER BEEN V'IT' A MAN BEFORE. SO SHE ISS - FRIGHTENED.

UH - IN THY STORY... DOES-DOES HE LOVE HER TOO?

I-I T'INK PERHAPS HE DOES IF-IF HE V'OULD JUST TELL HER. JUST A V'ORD. A TOUCH. IT ISS ALL SO NEW TO HER...

PERHAPS- PERHAPS HE IS FRIGHTENED, TOO...

CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOPPITY!CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOPPITY!CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOPPITY

!

CLOP!CLOP!CLOPPITY!
CLOP!CLOP!
CLOPPITY!

CLOP!CLOP!CLOPPITY!
CLOP!CLOP!
CLOPPITY!

SANDHRI!
WHAT...

CLOP!
CLOP!

.....
.....

SANDHRI?

SANDHRI?

THE - THE SOUND OF HOOVES. I-I DON'T LIKE HORSES.

COME, FOOD ISS V'AITING! AND THEN V'E CAN DOZE AND HIDE FROM THE MID DAY SUN.

SMAK

CHICKEN! V'ERE YOU GET SUCH T'INGS? AND CAKE! V'AT T'EY FEED YOU IN T'ISS LIBRARY?

THE LEAVINGS OF A PARTY. WE'VE BETTER FARE THAN THE SHAH HIMSELF!

MILK? ISS T'ERE MILK?

NO, MY SWEET! BUT SINCE YOU LIKE IT, I SHALL FIND SOME. WE'LL GET THEE MILK TOMORROW

LAZY SUMMERS DAYS PASS BY. IT WAS TWO WEEKS OF FUN AND LAUGHTER.

OH RASCHID! IT'S GORGEOUS!

SILK! REAL SILK!

RASCHID. I SAID NO PRESENTS!

BUT...

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. YOU CANNOT GIFF ME SUCH A T'ING!

I-I WORKED FOR IT. I REALLY WORKED FOR IT. I TRANSLATED A MEEPSOORAN DOCUMENT INTO OSRANII. PLEASE TAKE IT. I WANT TO GIVE YOU SO MUCH. JUST TAKE THIS ONE SMALL THING.

WHEN AN OSRANII WOMAN MARRIES, HER HUSBAND LAYS A SCARF ABOUT HER HAIR...

...THERE. FINALLY YOU ACCEPT A GIFT!

DOES IT LOOK ALL RIGHT?

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL.

SANDHRI.

UH - YES, RASCHID?

SANDHRI - YOU EARN FOUR OR FIVE DINAR ON A GOOD DAY, NO?

OH LOOK! A CARAVAN HASS COME TO TOWN!

A PAIR OF TROUSERS COST THIRTY DINAR. A SHIRT? MAYBE FORTY.

UH - YESSSSSSSS...

SANDHRI - WHERE DID YOU FIND FORTY DINARS FOR THOSE SANDALS?

I HAFF A FRIEND, A SHOEMAKER, AND HIS LITTLE GIRL V'AS SICK! I LOOKED AFTER HER, AND...

I STOLE THEM. I STOLE THEM FROM THE MOSQUE.

YOU T'INK I STEAL SHOES EVERY DAY? I-I V'ANTED TO HAFF SHOES FOR YOU. YOU HAD NEFFER BEEN V'IT' A BAREFOOT GIRL BEFORE. I COULD SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.

OH SANDHRI...

NO! LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO HEAR...

RASCHID!

RASCHID! SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING US!

NO! DON'T TURN AROUND. JUST KEEP V'ALKING SLOWLY.

FOLLOWING US?

V'E SHALL GO TO THE V'ATER SELLER DOWN THE ROAD BEHIND US. ASK TO TEST HIS V'ARES, ASK HIS NAME, AND V'E GO ON OUR V'AY.

GENTLE LORD, NOBLE LADY. A JAR OF ICY WATER FOR YOUR HOUSE?

PERHAPS - PERHAPS. MAY I SAMPLE YOUR WATER?

UR

UH - PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME. MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, SO WE MAY SEEK YOUR WARES AGAIN?

HOREB Y HASEEN, MY LORD. I LIVE ON THE STREET OF SWALLOWS.

ICK! IT WAS WARM AS BLOOD!

THE V'ATER, V'AS IT COLD OR V'ARM?

WHO IS IT? DID YOU SEE HIM?

IT V'ASS THE V'ATER SELLER, YOU GRAVEL HEAD! V'E ARE NEXT TO A V'ELL HOUSE, YET HIS V'ATER IS V'ARM! HE MUST HAFF BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR MORE T'AN AN HOUR.

V'Y US? RASCHID, V'AS THE DOCUMENT YOU TRANSLATED SECRET?

CAN WE LOSE HIM?

AYE! BUT NOT TO LOSE MY HAND!

YES?

RASCHID?

RUN!

...SORRY!

THIS WAY!

VULTURES! ASSASSINS!

HE'S STILL THERE!

OOOF!

KILL THEM! KILL THEM BOTH!

SWOOSH!

BOOT!

CHOK!

EEEE!

BONG!

SMAK!

SMAK!

SMAK!

FIND THEM! WHERE ARE THEY?

HEY! STOP THIEF!

THERE THEY ARE!

KILL! SLAY THE HERETICS!

GOOOSH!

EEEEEEEEEEE

EXCUSE US! SORRY!

HUF! PUF!
HUF! PUF!
I-I THINK THEY'VE GONE. YOU-YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
HUH! PUF!
HUF! PUF!
V'E- V'E GO DOWN TO THE SLUMS. T'EY NOT T'INK OF SEARCHING T'ERE.
YOU- YOU NEVER SAID YOU HAD A KNIFE!
HUF! PUF!
HUF! PUF!
HUF! PUF!
HUF! PUF!
YOU NEFFER ASK.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD NOT GO HOME TONIGHT. V'E HIDE YOU FOR A WHILE.
ME?
YOU T'INK PERHAPS T'EY V'ERE CHASING LITTLE SANDHRI?
YOU'RE RIGHT OF COURSE. WHERE WILL WE GO?
V'ELL! THERE'S FOOD IN PLENTY!
RASCHID? COME TO MY HOUSE. PLEASE? I CAN MAKE US DINNER, AND V'E CAN SIT AND TALK.

I SHOULD BE HONORED, MY LADY. - DEEPLY HONORED